

Appln No. 10/758,558
Amendment in Reply to the Office action dated March 21, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph numbered [0004] with the following paragraph:

[0004] In accordance with the present invention rail track guidance facilities are attachable to a target surface, such as a ship hull, on which it is exclusively supported to thereby establish for establishment of horizontal and vertical guide paths in spaced relation to the target surface along which a guide support for a surface treatment device is displaced to plural locations at which the treatment device is positioned preferably along an ejection axis aligned perpendicular to the target surface so as to perform paint coating or de-coating operations with maximized efficiency.

Please replace the paragraph numbered [0009] with the following paragraph:

[0009] Referring now to the drawing in detail, FIG. 1 illustrates a guidance assembly, generally referred to by reference numeral 10, through which movement of a surface treatment device 12 is selectively controlled in spaced relation to a vertical target surface 14 to which the guidance assembly 10 is removably attached at different locations. As shown in FIG. 1, the surface treatment device 12 is in the form of a pressurized paint spray ejection nozzle connected to a paint supply 16. A spray 18 of liquid paint is accordingly shown ejected from the ejection nozzle type treatment device 12 so as to paint the target surface 14, which may be on the exterior of a ship hull 20 on which a pair of fixed guide rails 22 of the guidance assembly 10 are attached in parallel spaced relation to each other so as to exclusively support the guidance assembly 10. A pair of vertical rail guide supports 24 are associated with the guidance assembly 10 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Upper and lower arms 26 and 28 extending from the vertical supports 24 are slidably received in the guide rails 22 for guided displacement of the supports 24 relative to the vertical target surface 14 in a horizontal direction. As shown in FIGS. 2 and 5, the vertical guide

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supports 24 are interconnected and held in horizontally spaced relation to each other by a pair of horizontal support rails 30 having end sections 32 slidably received within vertical guide slots 34 formed in the guide supports 24.

Please replace the paragraph numbered [0011] with the following paragraph:

[0011] It will be apparent from the foregoing description that the treatment ejection device 12 positioned on the rack plate 40 at each of a plurality of locations along the support rails 30 and guide slots 34 in perpendicular alignment with the target surface 14 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4 so as to apply the spray 18 to the surface 14 between the supports 24 and the upper and lower surface guide rails 22 with maximized surface treatment. A portion of the surface 14 between the horizontal rails 22 and the vertical supports 24 may thereby be efficiently and completely treated. The vertical supports 24 may be shifted horizontally along linear paths on the surface 14 along the rails 22 to sequentially cover other portions of the surface 14 during a treatment process. The horizontal guide rails 22 ~~may be~~ removably attached to the surface 14 may be ~~are~~ furthermore shifted to other locations on the surface 14 for treatment purposes to thereby cover the entire surface 14 to be treated.